

Message from the State Superintendent of Education

The National Council of Teachers of English sponsors the Achievement Awards in Writing to help recognize excellence in English teaching and in student achievement. This program publicly honors writing achievement based on students' samples of their own best prose or verse and on impromptu themes that are written under supervision. The writing demonstrates effective and imaginative use of language to inform and move an audience.

Among the students the Council recognized recently for superior writing are: Andrew Wildern, Dorman High School; Amelia Muller, Greenville Senior High School; and Rebecca Pittman, Xianru Shen, and Shelli Steinberg, Spartanburg High School.

A team of English teachers chosen from throughout the students' home states judged the writing. In South Carolina, Tery Fillippo of Pendleton High School coordinated and supervised the judging.

Good writing is essential to success in school and in the workplace. I join the National Council of Teachers of English in applauding the work of these students and teachers. We are proud of you.

Inez

- 1. Orangeburg, Greenville educators win national honor**
- 2. State Board of Education recognizes volunteers for service to schools**
- 3. Public invited to review proposed instructional materials and textbooks**
- 4. Deadline approaching for grant writing workshop**
- 5. SC MAPS wants to know how they can help**
- 6. Roper Mountain Science Center sponsors P.L.U.S. Institute**
- 7. Reading contest open**
- 8. Donate Life South Carolina sponsors poster contest**
- 9. Junior Symposium planned at University of South Carolina-Columbia**
- 10. School librarians association seeks nominations**
- 11. University of Iowa offers special graduate assistantships**
- 12. Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers several programs**
- 13. Charleston County Councilman is November's calendar feature**

Orangeburg, Greenville educators win national honor

Two South Carolina educators – an elementary school teacher and a principal – got the surprises of their professional lives this week with the news that they had won the prestigious Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award and its accompanying financial prize of \$25,000. To read the details, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=708>

State Board of Education recognizes volunteers for exceptional service to schools

The State Board of Education recently recognized 14 individuals and organizations for their volunteer efforts in local schools. To read more, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=706>

Public invited to review proposed instructional materials and textbooks

The public is invited to review textbooks and instructional materials that have been proposed for use in South Carolina's public schools.

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=705>

Deadline approaching for grant writing workshop

The State Department of Education's grant writing workshop, "From Reading the Guidelines to Submitting the Proposal," will be held December 4-6. The registration deadline is 5:00 p.m., November 15. To enroll, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/grants/2006GrantWritingWorkshopSeries.html>

SC MAPS wants to know how they can help

SC MAPS is an interdisciplinary program that teaches students the skills they need for PACT testing in math, science, language arts, and social studies. It uses the natural, physical, and cultural features of South Carolina in combination with background information and visuals, such as satellite images, aerial photographs and topographic maps. SC MAPS is now conducting a survey to find out more information about the use of the program. To take the survey, visit:

<http://www.clemson.edu/scmaps>

Roper Mountain Science Center sponsors P.L.U.S. Institute

Roper Mountain Science Center is again sponsoring the Science P.L.U.S. Institute for the state's public school science teachers. In its 15th year, the institute helps to promote hands-on, standards-based science instruction in South Carolina's public schools, grades

1-8. Each participant receives science classroom materials worth at least \$500. For more information, call 864-355-8920, or visit:

<http://ropermountain.org>

Reading contest open

Storyteller Tim Lowry, a nationally-known children's performer and American history specialist, is sponsoring a Cowboy & Indian Quiz contest for public, private and home school students in elementary grades 3-5. Entries will be accepted through November 30, 2006. For contest rules and an entry form, e-mail timlowry@surfguardian.net or log on to the Kid's Page:

<http://www.storytellertimlowry.com/>

Donate Life South Carolina sponsors poster contest

The Paula Moore Dillingham Memorial Poster Contest promotes organ and tissue donation in South Carolina. Sponsored by Donate Life South Carolina for elementary, middle, and high school students, the contest offers students and teachers a positive experience along with raising awareness about this important issue. The deadline is March 2, 2007. For more information about the contest, including entry rules, call 1-877-277-4866, e-mail smcadams@donatelifesc.org, or visit:

<http://donatelifesc.org>

Junior Symposium planned at University of South Carolina-Columbia

The Junior Science and Humanities Symposia (JSHS) program promotes original research and experimentation in the science, engineering, and mathematics at the high school level, and publicly recognized student for outstanding achievement. The JSHS provides a forum for high school students to present the result of their original research. Students who participate also have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas, interact with practicing researchers, and explore future academic and career opportunities. A symposium will be held at the University of South Carolina on Friday, January 26, 2007. The deadline for letters of intent to participate is November 17, and the deadline for the submission of papers is December 15. For more information, contact Don M. Jordan (Jordan@gwm.sc.edu) or visit:

<http://www.hrsm.sc.edu/jordan/>

School librarians association seeks nominations

The South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL) is seeking nominations for its annual awards. Awards include Administrator of the Year, Media Specialist of the

Year, Distinguished Service Award, Nancy Jane Day Scholarship, and the Margaret Ehrhardt Student Scholarship. The deadline for submissions is December 1. To download the award packet, visit:

<http://www.scasl.net/awards.htm>

University of Iowa offers special graduate assistantships

The College of Education at the University of Iowa has special assistantships in education available to persons wanting to pursue graduate study in several fields of study. The stipends are \$16,730. The deadline is March 2, 2007. For more information, write: Chair, SGA Selection Committee, The University of Iowa, 340 Lindquist Center, Iowa City, IA 52242-1529 or visit:

Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers several programs

The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers several programs in creative writing, drama, music, and visual arts. Offerings range from intensive two-week programs for rising ninth graders and tenth graders to a summer dance program and teacher institutes. For more information, e-mail admissions@scgsah.state.sc.us or visit:

<http://www.scgsah.state.sc.us/index.php>

Charleston County Councilman is November's calendar feature

Curtis Inabinett lived a life where very little came easy. So he learned to lean on his quiet, persistent nature to get the education that would make him a leader. That meant riding his bike 17 miles to school each day. And in him grew an understanding of the simple power of showing up everyday. The first African-American mayor of Ravenel, Inabinett is a member of the Charleston County Council. To read more visit:

<http://scafam-hist.org/currenthonoree.asp?month=11&year=2006>

This issue's quotation

"Thousands of geniuses live and die undiscovered - either by themselves or by others."
(Mark Twain)

EdBlast! welcomes submissions

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to jfairnot@ed.sc.gov or call Janice Larrymore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

Spread the word about EdBlast!

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tools/edblast/>

Thanks for sharing!